

## Persuasive Essay Prompts

1. Situation: Lawmakers are considering raising the age for legal drivers from sixteen to eighteen.

Directions: Think about whether or not the legal driving age should be raised to eighteen and why.

Prompt: Now write to persuade the lawmakers to raise the age or leave it as it stands now.

2. Situation: Next year your school will be adding a sport to its current list of extracurricular offerings.

Directions: Think about a sport you would like your school to offer next year as a class and why.

Prompt: Now write to persuade the principal of your school to add this sport.

3. Situation: Almost 20% of U.S. children and teens are overweight. To fight this growing problem, major soft drink manufacturers have agreed to limit the sale of sugary sodas in schools.

Directions: Think about whether or not eliminating soda sales at school is a good idea and why.

Prompt: Now write to convince your school board that soda machines should or should not be eliminated.

4. Situation: Recently there has been debate on whether or not schools should shorten the week to only four school days but with each day being longer.

Directions: Think of whether such a change in the length of the school week will be beneficial to students' academic and social progress or if it will hurt their progress and why.

Prompt: Now write to persuade an adult of your opinion.

5. Situation: Of all of your classes at school, there is one that is your favorite.

Directions: Think about your favorite class and why you like it.

Prompt: Now write to persuade a student to take that class with you.

6. Situation: The principal is considering adding an extra elective class for next year. This is a class that is not currently offered on the registration form.

Directions: Think of an elective that you would like your school to add and why.

Prompt: Write to convince your principal to include this elective as a choice for next year.

7. Situation: A friend has tested positive on a school drug test, and as a result, will be suspended for six weeks.

Directions: Think about whether this punishment will help or hurt your friend and why.

Prompt: Write to persuade your principal whether or not suspension is a beneficial punishment.

8. Situation: Many students do not think the subjects they study in high school prepare them for the real world they will face after graduation. The principal at your school is asking students for their opinions about new courses that could be offered to prepare students for life after high school.

Directions: What new course do you think should be offered?

Prompt: Write a letter to convince the principal that your new course should be offered. Be sure to explain why your new course is needed, using specific examples and details.

9. Situation: The twentieth century has given us inventions that have changed our lives in many ways. Big inventions, like television, computers, or microwave ovens, have had such a great impact on our culture that they seem to overshadow the small ones, like ballpoint pens, headphones, or calculators.

Directions: Think of big and small invention and their respective roles.

Prompt: Write an essay in which you argue whether the "big" inventions or the "small" ones play a more important role in your daily life and provide reasons to support your position. You may use the examples of inventions given above or come up with some of your own. Give as many examples as you feel necessary to support your position.

10. Situation: Who are our heroes? The media attention given to celebrities suggests that these people are today's heroes. Yet ordinary people perform extraordinary acts of courage every day that go virtually unnoticed. Are these people the real heroes?

Directions: Consider heroism and whether you agree or disagree with media's interpretation.

Prompt: Write an essay in which you define heroism and argue who you think our heroes really are—mass-media stars, ordinary people, or maybe both. Be sure to use examples of specific celebrities, other people you have heard or read about, or people from your own community to support your position.